



Consulate General of the United States of America Chiang Mai, Thailand

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Press Release

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Over 100 Youth in Chiang Mai Gather in Front of the U.S. Consulate General To Express 'Freedom' through Paint Brushes, Coloring the Ping River Landscape

Today (January 23) Over 100 youth in Chiang Mai province from various institutions and backgrounds joined the U.S. Consulate General, Chiang Mai's Youth Mural Painting Project "Friends for FREEDOM", a prime celebratory activity to highlight the Consulate's 60th anniversary and strong bonds between the U.S. and northern Thailand. As part of the closing ceremony, Consul General Michael K. Morrow and Mr. Tassanai Buranupakorn, Chiang Mai Mayor, complimented the young participants' creation that adds charm to the town's landscape, as well as fosters a creative atmosphere in the community.

The Youth Mural Painting Project "Friends for FREEDOM" aims to promote youth's freedom of expression and creativity, as well as to promote an expansion of public space for youth activities. The topic is "Freedom is..", and the response from local youth was overwhelming.

Consul General Michael K. Morrow said that, "These young participants represent our future. Their gathering reflects that freedom and democracy, creativity and friendship will continue to blossom despite racial and cultural differences."

Today's participants include—Mong Thongdee, stateless, paper-airplane champion and his stateless schoolmates from Baan Huay Sai School, students from Dara Academy and Prince Royal's College (both founded by American missionaries), Yupparaj Environmental Conservation Club, students from Wichai Wittaya School, student reporters from Child's Thai News, students with hearing disability from Anusansunthorn School, Juvenile Training Centre Region 7, international students from CMIS, Payap University and Ace! Community Service Alliance, art students from Rajamangala Lanna, Maejo University, Yupparaj Wittayalai School, Wattanothai Payap, Baan Kuan School, Asia Technology School, including American officers' children. The Consulate also opened its space to street art. Street Art Chiang Mai, local artists group joined in showcasing contemporary art and uniting all pieces of work into one concept.

Consul General Morrow added that the Consulate believes this can be a model to promote youth participation in local communities. The Consulate is also seeking partner organizations interested in providing space for such youth activity, and will sponsor painting supplies. It is expected that by this year end there will be more area in Chiang Mai colored by youth.

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